

York, and a longtime public servant whose retirement at the end of this year will mark the close of a career in elective office that has spanned nearly four decades. Today, I want to honor the career in public service of Erie County Legislator Edward J. Kuwik.

Ed Kuwik is a special kind of public servant and leader. Born and raised in gritty Lackawanna, Ed was educated at local schools, and earned a Bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University at Buffalo, and a Master's degree in education from Niagara University.

Ed began his public service as a mathematics teacher in the Lackawanna city school system. Later, after serving a stint as Lackawanna's City Engineer, Ed was elected to the first of two four-year terms as Mayor of Lackawanna.

In 1983, a vacancy occurred in the 1st district seat in the Erie County Legislature, and Ed sets his sights on filling it. Fighting an uphill battle for the appointment with a candidate supported by the party leadership, Ed won the appointment and was in November 1983 elected to the Legislature in his own right. Aside from a primary election in 1987, Ed Kuwik was never seriously challenged for election again.

Throughout his many years of service to his constituents, public safety has been a hallmark issue for Ed Kuwik. From 1984 to 2001, and from 2004 to today, Ed Kuwik has served as Chairman of the Legislature's Public Safety Committee, overseeing the operations of the county's Correctional Facility, Department of Central Police Services, STOP DWI Division, Department of Emergency Services, and worked closely with the county District Attorney's Office and the county Sheriffs Office. Ed has always been a fighter for additional resources to fight crime, adding prosecutorial positions in the District Attorney's Office, civil and criminal deputy positions in the Sheriff's Office and probation officers in the Division of Probation.

In 1993, Ed began a stint as a member of the Legislature's formal leadership, and was unanimously selected as Majority Leader, a position he held until 1996. After finishing his service as Majority Leader, Ed returned to focus his attention on his continued leadership of the Public Safety Committee and on an unparalleled reputation for constituent service.

Ed Kuwik is a full time public official, and when he says full time, he means it. Until January of 2003, when Ed was unexpectedly hospitalized for several days, Ed Kuwik had attended every single legislative session since his initial appointment to the Legislature in 1983—543 consecutive legislative sessions. Ed has also attended every scheduled committee meeting that has been held since that time. No other member in the nearly four decade history of Erie County Legislature has a record to match.

Ed is also a forceful and effective member of his local Democratic Party. Ed is a former Chairman of the Lackawanna Democratic Committee and has been a force in Lackawanna city politics for more than 30 years.

Ed Kuwik has enjoyed many successes as a public official. However, his greatest success has been as a devoted husband and father. Ed is married to the former Karen Moore, a public school teacher in the Lackawanna City school system. Ed is the father of three sons, Kevin, Keith and Mark, all of whom have collectively made their mark academically, mili-

tarily and professionally in their respective fields of study and service.

In 2005, Ed Kuwik chose not to run for reelection, and although he will be succeeded in the Legislature by another fine public official, the Legislature and his district will each be poorer for his absence. It is my fervent hope and belief that Ed Kuwik will remain an active member of his community, and allow us to work together to make his city and our region a better place to live, work and raise a family. I am proud to call Ed Kuwik my colleague and my friend, and I am grateful, Mr. Speaker, that you have allowed me this opportunity to commemorate his service here today.

HONORING DR. M. VALI SIADAT,
ILLINOIS PROFESSOR OF THE
YEAR

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. M. Vali Siadat, Professor at Richard J. Daley College and recipient of the Illinois Professor of the Year Award.

The U.S. Professors of the Year Award Program was created in 1981 to increase awareness of the importance of undergraduate instruction at all types of higher education institutions. This program recognizes faculty members for their achievement as undergraduate professors. The State Professors of the Year Award Program selects outstanding educators in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands and this year Dr. M. Vali Siadat of Richard J. Daley College in Chicago was chosen as the 2005 Illinois Professor of the Year.

Richard J. Daley College located on the southwest side of Chicago has been offering university-bound students a solid liberal arts education in their own neighborhoods since 1981. Richard J. Daley College has a full-time faculty of 81 members and a student body of 4,500.

Dr. M. Vali Siadat has been a valuable asset to the success of Richard J. Daley College. Dr. Siadat received his bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and after working in the engineering field, he began teaching at the Chicago Technical College and later at various schools in California. In the early 90s, Dr. Siadat started teaching at Richard J. Daley College as a Mathematics Professor in 1982. The Keystone Project which was pioneered by Dr. Siadat is a method of learning basic mathematics. The Keystone Project shows students how to concentrate through cooperative learning, precision teaching, and dynamic assessment of the student. Besides for this project, Dr. Siadat is the director of Chicago PREP (Proyecto Access Chicago), which is an intensive mathematics-based academic summer program targeting low income and minority students.

It is my honor to recognize Dr. M. Vali Siadat who serves as an outstanding example in school leadership and continues to exemplify excellence in education.

SANGRE DE CRISTO NATIONAL
HERITAGE AREA

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to designate part of the San Luis Valley in Colorado as the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area. In the 19th Century, the San Luis Valley was at the crossroads of cultures. As America spread west, Spanish, Anglo, and Native Americans converged to create a unique cultural experience.

A National Heritage Area designation will help increase local tourism, which currently represents less than 9 percent of the basic income of the affected counties. As tourism grows in this area, it will provide economic benefits to a rural region with a rich history.

Heritage designation also brings with it tangible financial support to restore historic buildings and sites; develop interpretive programs and museums; build regional trail systems and fund other improvements and enhancements.

Private participation and oversight is the cornerstone of the heritage concept. I believe this will also create opportunities and benefits for private landowners who contribute in the planning and demonstrate best practices management of their properties.

The activities of a functional heritage area will be able to tie-in and stimulate wider interest in attractions throughout the valley. This includes outdoor recreation activities on the extensive National Forest and other federal, state, and private lands, and increase visitation at museums, historic sites, and commercial attractions located in other counties bordering the heritage area.

Congress must act quickly to ensure the heritage elements preserved continue to have relevance for the people of the San Luis Valley and for the nation for generations to come. I urge my colleagues to support me in this legislation.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS,
EUREKA COUNCIL NO. 1067

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Centennial Anniversary of the Knights of Columbus, Eureka Council, No. 1067, chartered in Eureka, California on December 3, 1905. Over the past ten decades, this fraternal and spiritual organization has had a proud and distinguished record of public service in Humboldt County and is deserving of our recognition.

Through charity, fellowship and hard work, the Eureka Knights of Columbus have reached out to thousands of families and children to establish important community institutions of compassion and caring.

Among other endeavors, the Eureka Knights of Columbus helped establish St. Joseph Hospital in Eureka, which serves the sick and the poor from across the region. They initiated efforts to found the local St. Vincent DePaul of

Eureka, Arcata and Fortuna, communities within Humboldt County. The club also worked to bring about educational opportunities for youth through the establishment of St. Bernard's Catholic Schools, Camp St. Michaels and the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 54.

On this occasion, the Eureka Council of the Knights of Columbus will honor Anthony Gosselin, Sr. as the Knight of the Century. This distinguished honor is bestowed upon the late Mr. Gosselin, who led the Knights of Columbus as a founding board member of St. Vincent de Paul, served as a volunteer fire chief for the City of Eureka and as a member of the Humboldt County Water District board for fifteen years.

Mr. Gosselin served in World War I, married Eva Dandurand and had two children, Anthony Joseph Gosselin, Jr. and Beverly Gosselin Inskip. Mr. Gosselin was a tireless volunteer and devotee of the Knights of Columbus for over 65 years.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize the Knights of Columbus, Eureka Council 1067 and the Knight of the Century, Anthony Joseph Gosselin, Sr., for distinguished and extraordinary service to the community.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES EDWARD ODOM TRULY AN OUTSTANDING CITIZEN

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise and ask my Colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. James Edward Odom, constituent and friend who recently passed away at the blessed age of 87 years old.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Odom enjoyed a very full life. He was first and foremost a Christian and dedicated much time as a member of St. Mark A.M.E. Church serving in several capacities. Mr. Odom always made it known that his parents taught him to first acknowledge our Creator in all things; and that is the principle by which he lived his life.

Mr. Odom attributed the many successes in life to his Christian faith. He graduated from Nash Central High School and conducted his undergraduate studies at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina. He continued his studies at Eckles College of Mortuary Science in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and later graduated from Cortez Peters School of Business Administration in Washington, DC. Mr. Odom went further to study Standard Accounting and Management at George Washington University in Washington, DC.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Odom believed in using each of his many talents as evidenced by his significant involvement and active membership in countless organizations. The list is exhaustive with one affiliation just as impressive and important as the next. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Odom has indeed left an impression in the Nash County, Rocky Mount area where he served as Chairman of the Human Relations Commission; the First Black County Commissioner of the Nash County Board of Commissioners where he was elected to a four-year term in 1986 following a lawsuit under the Voting Rights Act; member of Unity Lodge #64; mem-

ber of the Trustee Board of St. Marks A.M.E. Church; member of the Little Raleigh Independent Club of Rocky Mount; member of the Helping Hand Club of Little Easonburg, Rocky Mount; past President of the Lay Organization of St. Mark A.M.E. Church and the list is perpetual. Further, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Odom served on the Board of Directors of the Rocky Mount Area Chamber of Commerce; Triangle East; Cities In Schools of Rocky Mount; The Salvation Army; First Union Bank of Rocky Mount; the Rocky Mount Branch of the NAACP; Nash Central Senior Alumni Association; the National Federation of Independent Business and he held countless other posts too numerous to mention.

Mr. Speaker, I learned that in 1980, Mr. James Edward Odom and his loving wife Erma embarked upon one of the most significant and important ventures in their lives; they became the proud owners of Hunter-Odom Funeral Services. I am sure that I speak on behalf of many of my 660,000 constituents whose lives Hunter-Odom Funeral Services touched in the sincere, compassionate and sensitive manner in which they handled bereaved families as they put loved ones to rest.

Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased and proud to pay tribute to such an outstanding pillar of the Nash County community. It is my wish that God will continue to bless and keep each member of Mr. James Edward Odom's family.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING'S OVERSIGHT OBLIGATION

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, during this debate on the Conference Report for the Fiscal Year 2006 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I want to call attention to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting's (CPB) obligation to ensure unbiased and objective programming.

The U.S. Congress provides the CPB with approximately \$400 million each year. CPB then allocates these funds to the Public Broadcasting Service, National Public Radio, and other recipients. It does so, as the Telecommunications Act makes clear, with the responsibility to ensure that recipients demonstrate "strict adherence to objectivity and balance in all programs or series of programs of a controversial nature." CPB also must see to "maximum freedom of the public telecommunications entities and system from interference with, or control of, program content or other activities."

These two obligations do not contradict each other. Rather, together they circumscribe the lawful activity of tax-supported public broadcasting programmers and program providers. Public broadcasting should enjoy "maximum freedom" from outside "interference or control" so long as it simultaneously demonstrates "strict adherence to objectivity and balance in all programs or series of programs of a controversial nature."

Mr. Speaker, there should be no confusion. These obligations reinforce each other. The

Corporation for Public Broadcasting must implement both on behalf of Congress and the taxpayers.

I commend CPB for creating a new unique office, the Office of Ombudsmen, as a step towards ensuring that these standards of fairness and independent reporting are upheld. Guaranteeing that basic journalistic requirements of objectivity and balance are maintained in public programming is hardly interference. In fact, I strongly believe that the public's trust in public broadcasting rests on just such standards and I will continue to fight to see that they are maintained.

RECOGNIZING SOUTH KOREA'S EFFORTS ON NORTH KOREAN REFUGEES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tangible, but often under-appreciated efforts the part of South Korea to address an important and urgent humanitarian concern—the resettlement of North Korean refugees.

South Korea has consistently maintained a policy to accommodate all North Korean refugees who have found safe haven abroad by permitting them to resettle in South Korea. The South Korean government also provides necessary cooperation, if the refugees wish to remain in another country, to avoid the forcible repatriation to North Korea against their will.

In the past 50 years, South Korea has resettled more than 7,100 North Korean refugees, an average of 20 persons per year between 1954 and 1997 (878 total), but at an accelerating rate since then: 72 in 1998, 148 in 1999, 312 in 2000, 583 in 2001, 1,141 in 2002, 1,281 in 2003, 1,894 in 2004, and 882 to date in 2005, with an expectation of a total refugee population of 10,000 by the end of 2006.

When North Korean refugees arrive in South Korea, they spend their first 3 months at Hanawon, a facility run by the Ministry of Unification, to receive education, orientation and basic vocational training. They also participate in social adjustment and cultural assimilation programs.

Following their orientation, the refugees are then provided with a variety of resources by the South Korean government that include assistance in finding meaningful employment for 5 years and a permanent residence in cooperation with local municipalities. They also receive general health insurance coverage and seed money to help sustain independent living.

For women refugees—which accounted for 68 percent of all North Korean refugees this year—the South Korean government additionally provides specific female vocational training and assistance with child-rearing and home protection.

For younger refugees, the South Korean government fully subsidizes all education fees through high school. If accepted into public universities, the refugees will receive full tuition including room-and-board. Should a North Korean refugee seek to study at a private university, the related costs will be covered jointly